

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11123 231145Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 AID-05
/029 W

-----231407Z 004370 /43

R 231021Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM, LA, HK, MY, SN, ID
SUBJ: OPIUM--THE STATISTICAL MORASS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 2286; (B) H.K. 4001; (C) VIENTIANE 0651;
(D) BKK 6685

SUMMARY: EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS RECEIVED THUS FAR ONLY THREE
REPLIES (REFS. A, B, AND :) TO ITS REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFO.
ON NARCOTICS STATISTICS (REF. D). WE HOPE THAT ADDRESSEE
POSTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET SENT US THEIR COMMENTS WILL DO SO
SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. BANGKOK AGREE WITH HONG KONG (REF. B) THAT, IN SOME
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 11123 231145Z

RESPECTS, ANY ATTEMPT TO REFINE STATISTICS ON OPIUM
PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS AN
EFFORT TO "REFINE THE UNREFINEABLE." NEVERTHELESS, WE
WOULD HOPE THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET SENT
US THEIR COMMENTS WILL DO SO SHORTLY. WITH REPLIES FROM
ALL ADDRESSEES IN HAND WE MAY THEN BE ABLE TO NARROW
THE RANGE OF OUR FIGURES WHICH AT THE MOMENT VARY SO

SIDELY AS TO BE ALMOST STATISTICALLY MEANINGLESS. REF-
TEL (B) IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THIS REGARD, AND WE
MUCH APPRECIATE THE WORK PUT INTO IT BY CONGEN HONG
KONG.

2. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: WE REGRET THE CONFUSION WHICH
REFTEL (C) MAY HAVE CAUSED, BUT THE "HIGH CONSUMPTION
FIGURE OF 230 METRIC TONS PER YEAR FOR MALAYSIA" GIVEN
IN TABLE D IS STATED IN OPIUM EQUIVALENTS. SINCE ONE
METRIC TON OF HEROIN HAS A (THEORETICAL) EQUIVALENCY TO
10 METRIC TONS OF OPIUM, THE 230 METRIC TONS LISTED IN
TABLE D WOULD BE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT WO 23 METRIC TONS
(OR 23,000 KILOGRAMS) OF HEROIN. WE CONVERTED ALL
FIGURES--FOR OPIUM, HEROIN, AND MROPHINE--INTO OPIUM
EQUIVALENCIES FOR PURPOSES OF UNIFORMITY AND COMPARA-
BILITY.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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